

*The Joy
and Power
of Focused Prayer*



Introduction

It's fascinating to watch God work through His people. What began as a completely practical matter blossomed into what could well become a powerful spiritual exercise with great implications for discipleship and spiritual growth.

During a meeting with the leadership team at church, a change was being made. Our focus has always been on outreach- to connect to the unchurched in our community. After all, we are a mission church. For the most part, our outreach was done on a corporate scale- through the efforts of many people working together to produce a significant 'event'. We wanted (and still do want!) to connect with the community through non-threatening, invitational means.

It was remarkable how our small congregation could produce events like a "Live Nativity" or coordinate a hot-air balloon event (Lift High the Cross); or servant events to help others; or an elaborate VBS. We found that these events had the added benefit of drawing our congregation together as we served side-by-side and shoulder-to-shoulder. It's great to see the body of Christ working together in harmony.

But that evening a change was in the air. As we looked at the coming year and sought God's will in prayer, we were led to do something different. Something more personal. Something deeper. We sensed that God is asking and leading us to reach others through prayer. Last summer, a friend introduced me to a book entitled Why Pray? by John F. DeVries.

Most of our leadership team had read it, and were moved by the way focused prayer for neighborhoods and people groups produced incredible results for the Lord. DeVries offered story after encouraging story of how people came to have the ties to self and Satan broken as the Holy Spirit worked in their lives.

That evening, the question was asked, “Why don’t we put together a similar series for our folks? Something that’s easy, practical, repeatable, and memorable.

So here we are. I’d like to invite you into a deeper journey of faith. I invite you to allow God to use you to consider others in a way that you may have never thought of before: To intercede for the unchurched that you personally know. God’s Word is clear: He calls us to continual, *persistent* prayer.

Consider 1 Thessalonians 5:17 and Jesus’ parable beginning in Luke 18:1.

My hope is that we would grow the habit of praying continually. That praying would become a permanent part of our lives, and that we would become more in tune with (attuned to) God’s voice and direction. And that loving God and loving others would become central in our lives.

May our Risen Savior bless you greatly on this 40-Day Journey.

-Pastor Rick

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Let's get started.

I am a pragmatic person. And I like to be straightforward. So, what you will see in these pages are practical ideas that anyone can do. You don't have to be a Biblical scholar or a giant of the faith. The model is a simple one: Think of one person, maybe a close friend, who does not have faith in Jesus Christ. Maybe they have fallen away from the faith, or maybe they have never known Jesus. Then pray specifically for that person for forty days. That's it.

(If you have a burden for more than one person, that's OK too. But the idea is to be focused. I'll be asking you to name each one every day, with every prayer. The idea is to be focused when you pray.)

To make it easier, this booklet will give you some ideas regarding how to pray. On each page you will see a "_____". That's where you'll place the name of the person.

Along with this devotion book, you'll receive a small card each week, that you can carry with you every day to remind you. Keep the card with you. When you see it, allow it to be a reminder to be focused when you pray for the person God has led you to pray for.

My hope is that something else would happen during our 40 day journey. That, after praying for a while, God would open up a conversation with that person so that you could let them know that you have been praying for them, and would continue to do so. And who knows, maybe after praying for someone for 40 days, you would feel comfortable enough to invite them to Church or a Bible study that you attend.

One last 'housekeeping' note: Our English language is awkward in handling references to both genders in the singular. Therefore, I have used 'them' instead of 'he or she'; and 'their' instead of 'him or her'. It is used only for the sake of convenience and brevity.

You will find a summary inside the back cover.

Day 1

Pray for _____'s physical health.

Scripture:

Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul.

3 John 1:2

Thought for today:

When we're having trouble with our health, it seems that everything else takes a back seat.

Sometimes, when we're flat on our back, the only way we can look is up. It can offer a chance to slow down and reflect on the truly important things in life.

Pray:

Dear Lord, You are the creator of all things. You know us well. You formed us and continually give us life. I ask that You would bless _____ with good health and strength. And that _____ realizes that You are the source of health and life, both now and eternally. In Jesus' name. Amen

Day 2

Pray for _____'s emotional health.

Scripture:

Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Psalm 30:5

Thought for today:

It's easy to get overwhelmed by life's events. Without God as our foundation, we plant our feet solidly in mid-air. Then every breeze of the air and wave of the sea would push us around randomly.

When we trust that He will act better on our behalf than we do, we come a long way to experiencing contentment and peace. God is the Solid Rock on which we stand.

Pray:

Dear Father in Heaven, bless _____ today. Guard their emotions and fill _____ with peace. Cause _____ to know that You are present, and that they are loved by You.
In Your mercy, hear my prayer. Amen.

Day 3

Pray for peace in _____'s home.

Scripture:

*"Peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and
peace be to all that you have."* 1 Samuel 25:6

*Let us not become conceited, provoking one another,
envying one another.* Galatians 5:26

Thought for today:

A home should be a place of refuge, a place of peace, a place of comfort and love. When the home becomes an upset place, the lives of all who live in that house are affected.

God's desire for us is His peace. Peace that is beyond our comprehension. Peace that would keep the hearts – and minds – of everyone within a household in His will.

Pray:

Dear Lord Father in Heaven, I pray for _____
right now. That You would protect them from the
anxieties of the world; that You would make _____'s
home into a place of quiet refuge and a place where
_____ 's strength can be rejuvenated.

Bless _____ and all who live within that home. In the
name of Your Son and our Savior. Amen.

Day 4

**Pray for _____'s job, or school work,
and for the folks that they work or study with.**

Scripture:

My chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

Isaiah 65:22

Thought for today:

What a wonderful blessing it is when we enjoy not only the work that we do, but also the folks with whom we work with every day.

When we are part of a team who shares in the experience of accomplishment and common goals, it makes every day a delight.

Pray:

Dear Father in Heaven, be with _____ today as they work in their job or study in school. Create an atmosphere of openness and cooperation. Let humor grease the rough places and help _____ find joy in the work of _____'s hands.

May Your Holy Spirit work in their heart so that they are encouraged and an encouragement to others. Thank You for hearing and already answering my prayer. Amen.

Day 5

Pray for _____'s marriage.

Scripture:

*Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother
and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one
flesh.*

Genesis 2:24

Thought for today:

God established the relationship of one man and one woman for a lifetime of mutual commitment, growth and blessings. At the core is God's agape love: God loves us without condition. God's love is a love that expects little, but gives all; love that isn't 50%/50% but 100%/100%.

Pray:

Lord, be with _____ and their spouse. Let them know that You are constantly present, and an active part of their relationship. Protect them from outside influences that would tear them apart, from internal pride and selfish desires that would drive a wedge between them. Instead give them hearts that long for one another and the desire to please each other.

*(If _____ isn't married, pray for their future spouse, that both would keep themselves pure for their eventual mate.)

Day 6

Pray for _____'s siblings & friends.

Scripture:

Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

2 Corinthians 13:11

Thought for today:

It is a sad place to be when someone is hurtful to those who are closest to them. When pride gets in the way, it's hard to apologize, and even more difficult to forgive. I can't help but to imagine what Jesus must have been thinking. Even as He was dying on the cross, He prayed, "Father forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing".

What an incredible pleasure it is when we live in peace, knowing that when we are in Christ, we are a new creation: forgiven sinners.

Pray:

Dear Lord, I ask that You would bless _____ in their relationships today. That You would break down the walls that would hinder love and reconciliation. I pray that Your Holy Spirit would intervene and heal and build trust in You. Then lead them to be restored so that they can love once again, just as You love us.

In Jesus' precious name, Amen.

Day 7

Pray for _____'s faith.

Scripture:

*...That your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men
but in the power of God.*

1 Corinthians 2:5

Thought for today:

Faith itself is a gift from God. He is the only source. Faith allows us to grasp the grace of God, from Whom we receive all good things. Faith allows us to have hope in the unseen things of God. Faith allows us to experience the promises of God in complete peace. With faith, worries disappear; with faith, fears are diminished; with faith, we know that God will be an ever present help in time of trouble.

By faith, we are justified, and have access to the very throne room of God.

Pray:

Dear Father in Heaven, I pray that great faith be given to _____. That they would come to believe all that You have done, that Your love has no end.

Lord, where _____ has fear, help _____ to believe that You have overcome the world.

Where _____ is questioning their worthiness, remind them that _____ is Your child –Royalty– The King's kid! Thank You dear Lord. Amen.

Day 8

Pray for _____'s children.

Scripture:

*All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and
great shall be the peace of your children.*

Isaiah 54:13

Thought for today:

Kids are a delight. ...That is, for most of us, most of the time.
They bring a smile to our faces. Their trust and openness
let us see a side of mankind that is refreshing and pure.

Yet, children are a huge responsibility, one that can be over-
whelming at times. To be reasonably successful in rais-
ing children, we must love them, be consistent with them,
and provide healthy boundaries so that they can be safe
and develop into strong men and women who can think
for themselves.

Pray:

Dear Father in Heaven, You know how to give good gifts to
us, as Your children. In the same way, I ask that You would
give Your good gifts of wisdom and love and faith to
_____. That _____ would be equipped to raise
their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

I pray that they would experience the full joy that came with their
salvation. And that they would grow to be the Godly men
and women You had in mind before the foundation of the
world. Amen.

Day 9

Pray that _____ has wisdom.

Scripture:

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all
those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!*

Ps 111.10

Thought for today:

Knowing about something is one thing.

Understanding how to act on that knowledge requires wisdom.
It's almost impossible to account for all of the variables. There
are too many things that are not under our control. Many of
these are things of time and space.

But God is not limited. Jesus is the Light of the world. He already
knows what tomorrow will bring. He knows everyone involved,
and what they will do. To gain wisdom, one must seek God.
(For additional insight, read Proverbs 1 and 8.)

Pray:

Father, give _____ Your wisdom. Let Your Holy
Spirit draw them to know You. Strengthen them in
their knowledge and reliance in You.

Let _____ desire wisdom over riches, position,
fame or even health. In the name of the One who is
most holy and wise, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Day 10

Pray for _____'s finances/ checking account.

Scripture: *Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts.* Malachi 3:10-11

Thought for today:

In God's economy, money isn't only for getting. When you get and keep it, it grows stale. When it is given away, it multiplies to bless others and yourself.

Perspective is important: Money is a tool. It is wise to be mindful that it cannot replace God as a god.

When we get it right- when we understand that all things are God's anyway, and He gives us from His abundance, then we have balance in our lives. And then God can bless us because we have no other gods before Him, and trust Him alone.

Pray:

Lord, I pray that _____ would learn to have a proper sense of balance in their finances. Take away the desire to spend without responsibility.

Strengthen _____'s faith so that _____ would find greater joy in You than in things. That _____ would find satisfaction in You, while learning that everything else is empty. Thank You for Your mercy and Your grace. Amen.

Day 11

Pray that God would surround _____ with godly people.

Scripture:

“And when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles.”

Galatians 2:9

Thought for today:

Let's face it: you become like those that you spend time with. Sometimes folks find themselves influenced in less than healthy ways, and can't find a way to get out.

The key is to make good choices for friends, and to surround yourself with people who live for Christ.

Pray:

Dear Lord, thank You for Your love and mercy.

Lord, I humbly ask that You would have compassion on my friend _____. Surround them with godly men and women who can extend Your Godly agape love to them, to draw them to You.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 12

Pray that God would supply all _____'s needs.

Scripture:

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"

Matthew 6:25

Thought for today:

Have you ever asked, "Why do we worry?" Worrying doesn't do any good, and it makes us miserable. It seems that everything that we can worry about is entirely out of our control. However, everything is under God's control.

God desires for us to have faith that He will supply everything we need according to His unlimited riches and glory!

Now, tell me: what's there to worry about?

Pray:

Lord, I ask in the Name of Your Son Jesus, that You would comfort _____'s heart.

Supply every need that _____ has in Your wisdom and mercy.

Give them confidence in You, so that _____ knows that You care about every detail of life. Amen.

Day 13

Pray for _____'s safety.

Scripture:

But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you.

Psalm 5:11

Thought for today:

A sanctuary is a place of safety and refuge. In that place of safety, enemies cannot reach one who no longer is exposed and unguarded.

God Himself is our refuge. He is always present. We can be assured that He is present in time of trouble. Remember that God does not compromise on His promises.

Pray:

Lord, set _____ apart as Your person. Make their heart a temple dedicated for You. Extend Your loving net of safety around them, and keep them safe from the wily darts of the devil. Protect them with Your loving arms. Set a hedge of thorns around _____ to protect them, and set Your angels around him to keep them safe. Thank You dear Lord. Amen.

Day 14

Pray for _____'s eating habits.

Scripture:

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Thought for today:

Many connections have been made between our state of mind and our diet. When we are tired, often it is found that we aren't eating right. When folks are worried or listless, they often eat to push away the pain and anxiety. That just makes matters worse.

At the root is a spiritual issue. We think that we are our own, when, in fact, we are God's. In fact, we are God's twice: He made us, then He redeemed us. How great and merciful our Risen Savior is! He has called us His own!

Pray:

Lord Father in Heaven, I lift _____ to you right now, that You would bless them. That, through Your Holy Spirit and Your Word that You would help _____ to know that You have called them by name.

By Your Name, help _____ to take care of their body, because You bought it. Help _____ to be self disciplined and strengthened in their faith in You.
Amen.

Day 15

Pray for things that come into _____'s mind.

Scripture:

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2

Thought for today:

What we think about greatly influences our actions. Paul encouraged his brothers at the Church in Philippi, to think on these things:

Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

You can't go wrong when your thoughts are God's thoughts!

Pray:

Lord, there are so many things that can draw _____'s mind away from You including the things of this world, and the desires of the flesh. Dear gracious Father, keep _____'s mind and heart in Your loving embrace. Protect _____ from any inappropriate influences.

Free their mind to focus on You all day today. Thank you for hearing and for already granting my prayer. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Day 16

Pray for _____'s spiritual health.

Scripture:

And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 8:27

Thought for today:

Balance is so important. When our spirit is out of sync with God's, our whole life loses purpose, focus and meaning. On the other hand, when The Holy Spirit is at work in our hearts, we are more attuned to hear His "still, quiet voice", and discern His direction for us.

God Himself helps us to hear, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the solid food of His Word, to take it to heart and to put it to use.

Pray:

Dear Heavenly Father, Bless _____ today,
Help them become strong in Your Spirit. Increase in _____ a curiosity for Your Word, a sensitivity to hearing Your voice, and a desire to please You in all that they do. In the Name of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Day 17

Pray that _____ does not fall into temptation.

Scripture:

*I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but
that you keep them from the evil one.*

John 17:15

Thought for today:

Temptations are everywhere. It's hard to go out of the house, to turn on the TV, to pick up almost any written material without getting bombarded with them.

But there is hope. Jesus was tempted in every way that we are, but He didn't fall into its trap. His example is a great encouragement to us. We need discernment to see what is happening, then courage to follow God's will. We need strength to simply say "no". God's promise is that He will always give us a way of escape.

Pray:

Dear Father in Heaven, You are a great and merciful God.
You desire that no one would perish, but that all should have everlasting life.

I ask that You give _____ discernment so that He would not place them in a place where they can be easily tempted. Protect _____'s heart from Satan and his demons. Encourage and strengthen _____ in faith and trust in You. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Day 18

That God's will is done in _____'s life.

Scripture:

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:10

Thought for today:

Here's a surprise: Most of our troubles are caused by ourselves.

So often we pursue things- the sweet and spicy things around us. There is nothing inherently evil in these things, they are just empty.

God has much more available: Treasures in heaven. Wisdom on earth. Relationships built on love and the solid Rock of Christ. Let us look beyond the empty and useless things and seek after God's kingdom and His righteousness. Then all other things will be added.

Pray:

Father, give _____ the delights of their heart. Draw _____ to Yourself, give them Your wisdom and discernment so that they want to be squarely in the middle of Your will.

Through your Holy Spirit, help _____ to want to please You above all else. And bless them with the joy that You can only provide. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Day 19

That they become aware of God working in _____'s life.

Scripture:

Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 100:3-5

Thought for today:

Of the many attributes of God, the one I am most fascinated with is God's incredible persistence. He is active, working in your life. He never sleeps. He never quits. God's love endures forever. God never changes: He is the same yesterday today and forever.

He desires only what is best for you and for all those you know. When you quiet your heart... when you become still... then it's easier to see His work and hear His voice. And to know that He is God.

Pray:

Dear Father in heaven, thank you for working in _____'s life these days. I am so humbled that You would hear my intercessions.

Thank you for Your great work, for Your amazing Grace, for Your unending perseverance and love. Let _____ see Your work in their life, and may it be a blessing to _____ today. In Jesus' precious Name. Amen.

Day 20

Pray that _____ would experience God's "agape" love.

Scripture:

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends"

John 15:12-13

Thought for today:

Have you ever sought the very heart of God? At the core of His character is His agape love. Just trying to understand that can become overwhelming.

He still loves us, even when we ignore Him. While we were still sinners, He sent His Only begotten Son to die in our place.

God's love is unconditional, without limit, holds no preference for skin color, language, economic status or nation of origin.

In His love for you, He desires a deep, personal relationship in which His agape love can be reciprocated and extended to others.

Pray:

Dear Lord, let _____ know of Your unlimited love. That You have given Your one and only Son to die as a substitute for their sin. Somehow, express to _____ that if they were the only person who ever lived, that You would still have sent Your Son to die for _____.

Let Your Holy Spirit help _____ to grasp and believe in faith. Thank you Lord. Amen.

Day 21

Pray that _____ responds to God's love with joy.

Scripture:

Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 1:8-9

Thought for today:

Ours is a remarkable culture. But that isn't always a good thing.

We are addicted to the extreme. The thing that grabbed our attention yesterday has faded. Now we are seeking for the next new thing. Words have been cheapened. What was "Awesome" is now commonplace.

It does not have to be that way. Joy can replace happiness. Joy can replace shock. Joy can overcome our hard hearts.

God's love can overcome all things that have been corrupted. Our response is found in the joy of our hearts.

Pray:

Today O Lord, I pray for _____. That You would restore the joy of their salvation. That You would bring true joy to _____'s heart.

And that _____ would leap in faith to know that they are in Your perfect will, because of Your perfect grace!
Amen.

Day 22

Pray that _____ experiences God's Peace in their life.

Scripture:

For there shall be a sowing of peace. The vine shall give its fruit, and the ground shall give its produce, and the heavens shall give their dew. And I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things.

Zechariah 8:12

Thought for today:

Many consider peace to be the absence of war or strife.

Perhaps. But I believe that peace is much more than that. Peace is the presence of God's purpose. It displaces selfishness. God's peace rains down from heaven and restores your soul.

The Hebrew word Shalom is often translated as "peace". But it is more accurately translated as "completeness". God's peace is the work of creation, and the work of Christ. When God reconciled the world to himself, He did it on the cross. And Jesus exclaimed: "It is Finished!"

Pray:

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for bringing Your perfect peace to _____. Thank you for the work of Your Holy Spirit in _____'s heart.

You wiped away their tears; You restored their soul; You brought _____ peace. I am grateful for all of the work of Your hands. Amen.

Day 23

Pray that _____ learns the patience of God.

Scripture:

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

Thought for today:

When things get hectic, it's difficult to be patient. But when you think about it, impatience is only self-serving. And it sure isn't any fun.

But God has a better way.

When we call Him Lord (instead of ourselves) and love others, things seem to settle down. The little things take a new perspective.

And in the end, I am grateful for God's patience with us.

Pray:

Dear Father in Heaven, I ask that You would let _____ know and experience Your patience. Let Your Holy Spirit give them a new perspective in life to separate the important from what is only unimportant and seemingly urgent.

Strengthen _____'s heart and increase their faith in You.
In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 24

Pray for _____'s fruit of the Spirit: Kindness.

Scripture:

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4.32

Thought for today:

Kindness is an extension of a healthy self-image. When you know that you are loved, you have a reservoir from which to extend kindness and love to others. When you put others ahead of yourself, it is a sign that you are humble and do not need to be self serving.

Kindness encourages all those around you.

Pray:

Dear Father in Heaven, You exhibited loving kindness without bounds when You sent Your Son to be our Savior and Redeemer. Today, let _____ know the blessing of Your kindness, and then let them extend that to others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 25

Pray for _____'s fruit of the Spirit: Goodness.

Scripture:

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. Genesis 1:31

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! Matthew 7:11

Thought for today:

God's goodness is a product of His creation; God said, and it became. And it was GOOD! Everything He created was made to support you and give you strength and joy.

Imagine what great things God has in store for you!
Imagine what great things God has in store for the person for whom you have been praying!

Pray:

Lord, Let _____ see Your creation in a new light today.
Give them new insights and wisdom so that they can see the work of Your hand in nature and in their own life.
Lord, You are good! Your mercies endure forever!
Amen.

Day 26

Pray for _____'s fruit of the Spirit: Faithfulness.

Scripture:

What if some were unfaithful?

Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God?

Romans 3:3

Thought for today:

One recurring theme I hear from folks who do not go to church is that people there are hypocrites. Some may be, but I've found that most folks genuinely want to please God in all that they say and do.

Going to church—worship- is more about your relationship with God than anything else. God is certainly faithful. His promises endure forever. He is unchangeable. His forgiveness is for all who repent and believe in His Name. That even includes all those who have fallen short of God's expectations –even you.

Pray:

Dear Father in Heaven, be with _____ today. Help them to know that You are faithful, even when Your people are not. Help _____ to know that Your forgiveness and promises do not change because of some whim. Your steadfast love endures forever. Amen.

Day 27

Pray for _____'s fruit of the Spirit: Gentleness.

Scripture:

...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3:15

Thought for today:

Who do you respond to most positively? One who is gentle and respects you, or one who berates and intimidates you? Consider your own demeanor when you speak with others.

When we are imitators of Christ, we extend His love to others. Ask yourself, 'how I can best extend God's love when speaking with the person for whom I have been praying?'

Pray:

O Holy Father, You are gentle. Your still, quiet voice speaks to us gently and with compassion. I pray for _____ now, asking that You would offer an example of gentleness to them and allow _____ to respond to You in a gentle manner.

In the Name of the gentle Lamb of God, Amen.

Day 28

Pray for _____'s fruit of the Spirit: Self Control.

Scripture:

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

2 Timothy 1:7

Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

1 Corinthians 9:25

Thought for today:

The strongest and most successful people are those who have self control. They see the big picture. Their goals go beyond the thrill of the moment.

With God's help, every person is able to put his body under subjection. When we are at our weakest, God is strong for us.

Pray:

Gracious Father, Thank you for the self control that Jesus exhibited in the Garden, when He declared, "Not my will, but Your will be done". Thank You for Paul's dedication to a greater cause than himself.

Lord, bless _____ today with self control. Strengthen their will, and align it with Your own will. Draw them to You and make _____ the person You had in mind before the Creation. In Jesus' precious Name, Amen.

Day 29

Pray that _____ has hope.

Scripture:

“...having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you,”

Ephesians 1:18

Thought for today:

If your eyes are fixed on the ground, you won't see the stars or the sun. Hope can be a tough notion if you don't know what to look for.

But God can illuminate our path so that we see the hope that He has already established for us.

Pray:

Lord, I ask that You would give the gift of hope to _____. Cause them to be strengthened in faith and persuaded that nothing can separate _____ from You.

Allow Your light to illuminate their path so that they know Your presence. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 30

Pray for _____'s life journey.

Scripture:

*And the priest said to them,
"Go in peace. The journey on which you go is under
the eye of the LORD."*

Judges 18:6

Thought for today:

It is said that our lives are a journey. As young children, we begin to learn the skills necessary to carry us through. As we develop, new horizons come into view as new freedoms are allowed. The possibilities are endless. Their potential is seemingly without bounds.

Some people are fearful of the unknown; others are excited at what God will bring. Let us be strengthened in our faith and discernment so that we would be able to face life's challenges with anticipation and wisdom.

Let's pray.

Lord Father in Heaven, please bless _____'s journey today. Direct them on the path that You had in mind before the foundation of the world. Keep that path straight.

Help them to maintain a wise perspective, a healthy balance and a godly view of what is happening around him.

Amen.

Day 31

Pray that _____ has the courage to do what is right.

Scripture:

As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

2 Thessalonians 3:13

Thought for today:

Doing the right thing sounds great... in theory. Then when it comes to practice, we often mess up. Sometimes, when no one is looking, we are tempted to take short-cuts. That's just our sinful nature telling us that we are tired or unable.

But God gives us the power to overcome the world and our flesh. And He gives us the joy to continue knowing that our highest work is in serving Him!

Pray:

Dear Lord, heavenly Father, strengthen _____'s faith.

Give them the courage to live their life with the highest integrity, so that _____ would act according to Your will.

Bless _____ today remains strong in You. Amen.

Day 32

Pray that ____ would be protected from falling to temptation.

Scripture:

*No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man.
God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your
ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of
escape, that you may be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13*

Thought for today:

The problem with temptation is that our flesh likes it, but
it is the way of destruction and death.

Conversely, God is life. He is constant help in time of
trouble. His Spirit is our Counselor. His Word is the
light of our salvation.

His promise is not that we would not be tempted, but only
that He would always provide a way of escape.

Pray:

Lord, Jesus was tempted in every way that we are, but He
did not fall. Let that be an example to _____ to-
day.

Give _____ the insight to see the way of escape and the
will to walk through that door.

Thank you for Your mercy and faithfulness.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 33

Pray that the Holy Spirit works in _____'s heart.

Scripture:

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:26

Thought for today:

For over a month, you have been praying for _____. By now our hope is that their heart is being softened.

God's work is the work of creation and re-creation. God gives us a new heart. He restores our soul. Only God can take a heard heart and soften it to make it humble and contrite and usable for His purposes.

Pray:

Dear Father, Thank you for healing _____'s broken heart.

Thank you for re-creating them and restoring their soul.
Thank you for Your forgiveness and life.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Day 34

Pray that God would be _____'s refuge and strength.

Scripture:

But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.

Psalm 59:16

Thought for today:

You've probably seen the picture & poem entitled "Footsteps". The image is that of one set of footprints on the sand. I love the message: When we think that we're all alone, God is there. When we think that we're carrying the entire load, we find that God is carrying us.

He is always there. In good times, and in bad. He's strong when we are not. His love never fails. He is our strength and our refuge.

Pray:

Dear Father, I lift up _____ to You right now. Bless them with the knowledge of Your constant, sustaining presence. Through Your Holy Spirit, encourage _____, so that they know Your strength carries them.

Thank you for being _____'s refuge and strength. Amen.

Day 35

Pray that _____ would be content.

Scripture:

Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

Philippians 4:11-12

Thought for today:

Stuff has little to do with contentment. Contentment is an attitude of the heart. During trips to Central America, I was amazed by folks, who, according to U.S. standards, had virtually nothing. But these same folks were remarkably content.

I learned through them that God supplies *all* of our riches. In Him, we are truly wealthy.

Pray:

Heavenly Father, I ask that You would give _____ a new perspective regarding possessions, so that they would understand that things are only tools to be used.

Remove their desire to accumulate for the sake of owning, and to realize that You provide all of our resources.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 36

Pray that God would call _____ to be His own.

Scripture:

Open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

Acts 26:18

Thought for today:

We know that our Heavenly Father sent His only Son so that every single person would be saved. He offers grace to everyone. He offers His salvation to everyone. And He even supplies faith so that we can grasp His incredible gifts.

All of the work is done by God Himself, all, for our benefit.

Pray:

Dear merciful Father, draw _____ to Yourself.

Create in them a new heart.

Let _____ receive Your Grace through Faith.

I pray this for the sake of Your one and only Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Day 37

Pray that _____'s heart is opened to an invitation to come to church.

Scripture:

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

Psalm 122:1

Thought for today:

What a delight it is to gather together with the saints of God to worship Him together!

We are His body. We are His people! We are servants and priests and brothers and sisters together, with Jesus as our head, and the Holy Spirit as our comforter and our helper.

Pray:

Father, You commanded that we make disciples of all nations. And You told us to start at home. Lord, I ask that You would make _____ receptive to Your invitation to become part of Your body, Your Church.

Thank you for breaking down my own inhibitions and use me to invite _____ today. Thank you. Amen.

Day 38

Pray that _____ feels loved by me and by God.

Scripture:

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

Thought for today:

Isn't that remarkable?

Nothing: absolutely *nothing* can separate us from God's love. His love knows no limits. God's love has no conditions. It is complete, eternal, overwhelming, and beyond comprehension.

God is great and greatly to be praised!

Pray:

Dear Heavenly Father,

Help _____ to feel secure because they know that they are always held in Your arms as You promised.

Lord, one more thing: Help me to love _____ as You do.

Thank You for Your love, gracious Lord. Amen

Day 39

Pray that _____ is forgiven.

Scripture:

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.

1 John 2:12

Thought for today:

God's forgiveness is permanent. When He forgives, He no longer considers our sin or mistakes. He forgives us every time that we confess, repent, and ask to be forgiven.

Jesus also taught His disciples to ask that God would forgive them as they forgave others.

When you forgive someone, a burden is lifted from you as well.

Pray:

Lord, in Your mercy, hear my prayer: Forgive _____ for everything they have done to hurt me or others.

Let Your Spirit work in their heart so that _____ would realize their sin so that _____ would repent and turn to You.

Thank You for Your forgiveness and salvation. Amen.

Day 40

Pray that _____ becomes a disciple of Christ.

Scripture:

And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

Matthew 10:42

Thought for today:

The way that the church grows is one-by-one. It happens through one disciple who makes another disciple, by the power and grace of God.

Pray:

Lord, I ask today that You would use me, as Your disciple, to serve _____.

Give me the wisdom and discernment to disciple _____ in the coming days. Let my thoughts be Your thoughts, and my ways Your ways.

Thank You O Lord, for Your lovingkindness and mercy. In the Name of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Thank you for your devotion and commitment to prayer. I'd love to know how God worked through you during these days.

What change did you see in the person for whom you prayed?

What change did you find in yourself?

Please let me know.

Pastor Rick Tabisz
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Summary

Day Prayer Focus

- 1 Physical Health
- 2 Emotional Health
- 3 Peace at home
- 4 Work or school
- 5 Marriage*
- 6 Siblings & friends
- 7 Faith
- 8 Children
- 9 Wisdom
- 10 Finances/ checking account
- 11 Godly people to surround them
- 12 God would supply all needs
- 13 Safety
- 14 Eating habits
- 15 Protection of the mind
- 16 Spiritual health.
- 17 Protection from temptation
- 18 That God's will is done.
- 19 Awareness of God work
- 20 Experience of God's "agape" love

Day Prayer Focus

- 21 Response to God's love with joy
- 22 God's Peace in life.
- 23 The patience of God
- 24 Fruit of the Spirit: Kindness
- 25 Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness
- 26 Fruit of the Spirit: Faithfulness
- 27 Fruit of the Spirit: Gentleness
- 28 Fruit of the Spirit: Self-control
- 29 God's gift of Hope
- 30 Life's journey
- 31 Courage to do what is right
- 32 Protected from falling to temptation
- 33 The work of the Holy Spirit
- 34 God is refuge and strength
- 35 Content heart
- 36 Salvation
- 37 Open to an invitation to church
- 38 Feels loved by me and by God
- 39 Forgiveness
- 40 Discipleship

Thank you for joining us on this
40-day journey.

May God's richest blessings be with you
now and forever. Amen.



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